

# STATION

# NEWS



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Geneva, N. Y.

## AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The American Institute of Biological Sciences, a composite of several specific scientific associations, opened its doors in Columbus, Ohio on Monday to meetings of the various organizations concerned. Local staff members, interested primarily in the work of the American Society for Horticultural Science and the American Society of Plant Physiologists are attending these phases of the scientific meetings. They include Doctors Heinicke, Ben Clark, Rodney, Wagenknecht, Holley, Cain, and Curtis, and Professors Slate and Sayre. As mentioned in last week's NEWS, Professor Slate will present two papers on blackberry and red raspberry breeding.

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## CORNELL WINS AAACE AWARD

A communique from the NEWS' special reporter at the Agricultural College Editors' meeting in Texas informs us that the New York entry won first prize at the exhibit competition. Contributions from the Geneva Station and the Ithaca campus made up the New York exhibit. Thirty-four states were entered in the contest. Geneva exhibits were in the "Publications" class which rated second high. Farm Research was rated as "good" and the "Carrot Yellows" bulletin copped an "honorable mention". Editor Luckett met George Axinn at the ACE meeting which congregated Experiment Station and agricultural college scribes from most of the states. Our own delegate has by now crossed the Rio Grande and is resident at, of all places, the Hotel Geneva in Mexico City.

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## REPORT ON BRAZIL

We finally cornered Doctor Mack long enough to elicit a few comments on his recent sabbatic trip to Rio de Janeiro. To begin with, "Gil" left Geneva just about a year ago and made a short trip to Pullman, Washington before embarking for his South American cruise. Most of his time south of the equator was spent at Rio de Janeiro where he studied at the Laboratory of Mineral Products. The laboratory is under the jurisdiction of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture. For a good share of his time he worked with Doctor Fritz Feigl, internationally known scientist who is famous for his "pocket-size laboratory" for geologists, which is essentially a series of spot-tests for determining the presence of minerals. He collaborated with Doctor Mack on a paper describing the latter's spot-test for dithionites, which are strong reducing compounds. Doctor Mack also studied the applications of spot-tests in the print method of recording spray residues on foliage. Commenting on Brazilian agriculture, he stated that, while completely modern equipment does exist, most of the country's agricultural work is accomplished by fire and simple equipment, namely, the hoe. Fire is used to clear the land and planting is done in the ashes, without removing stumps. As soon as the soil is exhausted, the planting is moved to virgin territory. This has created a critical erosion problem and migration of plantations toward the hinterlands. Working hours are very indefinite and inconsistent in the region. Hours at the Rio laboratories, for example, were from noon till 6 P.M. and the general tempo is considerably slower. The idea was very interesting and relaxing but just as we were dozing off into our siesta, we were shocked back into reality by the antithetic entrance of Frank Lee.

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## DISTRICT MEETING OF CSEA

Mr. Laurence J. Hollister, Field representative of the Civil Service Employees Association, met with chapter presidents and membership officials of the surrounding community, at a dinner meeting at Pronti's restaurant Monday evening. Representatives were present from Newark State School, Auburn Prison, Willard State Hospital, Experiment Station, and nearby county chapters. Mr. Hollister urged all members to vote in the coming election of officers and also requested that every effort be made to maintain and increase membership in the association through the activities of the local chapter. Professors Harlan and Hofer were present from the Geneva Chapter.

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A symposium on "Lipids" is being held at the University of Rochester today and tomorrow under the sponsorship of the Gould Foundation. The symposium will serve as a toast to Professor Walter Bloor of the University and the attendance will be composed of his friends, associates, and acquaintances. Doctor D.C. Carpenter will be at the affair.

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#### OBSERVE PROCESSING METHODS

Methods used in the commercial packing of tomato juice were studied by Doctors Hand and Moyer, and Bob Ransford on Monday when they visited the Red Wing Canning Company and the Producers and Cannerys CoOperative, both in Western New York.

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#### CALCIUM "BERRIES" GALORE

The home-canning of tomatoes is at its annual peak and Mabel Sperry reports that the mailing room is doing a land-office business in sending samples of the calcium chloride-table salt combination tablets which are used to keep tomatoes firm during processing, canning, and subsequent cooking. The tablets are not yet available at retail outlets so the Station is supplying small samples of them at nominal charge to homemakers. To date, over 550 jars which represent 27,500 tablets have been sent from the mailing room and orders are still coming in faster than they can be supplied. A good many of the requests are repeat orders which indicate that Doctor Kertesz' idea can be used in the home. The spoken and written word has evoked orders from California and Washington but the bulk of the requests have come from Eastern States. Incidentally, a new Cornell Extension Bulletin, No. 801, entitled "Tomatoes the Year 'Round" has just come off the press. The bulletin is authored by Nelle Thompson, Carl Pederson, and Zoltan Kertesz, and gives instructions for preserving tomatoes and tomato products.

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#### DEPLETING RANKS

School bells are beckoning grad students and summer assistants back to the classroom. Veg Crops, reaching the peak of the tomato season, is particularly hard hit by the exodus. Already gone or due to leave this week are Carl and Don Benken-dorf, Florence Schelling, Bernice Traphagen who began a nurse's training course at Strong Memorial last week, Bert Harold, Dick Levalle, Steve Berger, Ray Sheldrake, Bill Rydor and Beezy Peck. In Plant Path, Charley Loback has already deserted the ranks and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Burke will be winding up their summer work this week.

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#### SPEAKS TO KRAUT PACKERS

A speaker at the meeting of the National Kraut Packers Association in Racine, Wisconsin, last Friday was Doctor Carl Pederson who spoke on "Quality in Sauerkraut". At the termination of the meeting, the Geneva scientist paid a visit to his parents' home in Tomah, Wisconsin.

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#### APPLES

The Inter-Science Publishers have released volume II of the series on Economic Crops. The latest text is entitled "Apples and Apple Products" and was written by R.M. Smock of the College of Agriculture at Ithaca, and A.M. Neubert of the USDA's laboratory at Pullman, Washington. Z.I. Kertesz edited the volume.

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#### THIS 'N' THAT

George and Bob Butler have returned to the Station from their summer work in outlying areas. George will carry a memento of the recent infection in his left elbow when he returns to his Ithaca studies next week. Bob plans to attend the Columbia graduate school. Yesterday, he reported for a physical examination at the request of Uncle Sam. Wayne Howe and Paul Kirchner also answered similar invitations recently. Wayne will register for the fall term at Ithaca but will remain in Geneva to work on his thesis....Claude Heit has returned from a week's layoff to find his office spread all over the third floor of Hedrick. The reason is that a renovating job is being done in his domain....Guest of the Max Pattersons last week was his mother, Mrs. Goldie Patterson....And Entomology's guest on Monday was Harold Steiner, an assistant in the Poughkeepsie lab about 15 years ago. He is now the manager of one of the largest fruit farms in Pennsylvania....The heat's on over in Jordan Hall. And we don't mind a bit because it's been uncomfortably cool the past few days....Don't forget your blood donation tomorrow afternoon. Hours are from 2 to 7 P.M. at the Masonic Temple....We note that an exhibit at the State Fair put on by the Peach Growers Association took first prize in Class D. The exhibit was engineered by Jack Heinicke and monitored by him and Grace Ann Overholser. The exhibit depicted the possible uses for peaches including the fresh fruit, canned peaches, and frozen fruit. Miss Overholser was attired as the Peach Queen....Doctor and Mrs. Breed motored to Montreal Monday morning. He is attending a conference of the editorial board of Bergey's Manual....Professor Wellington in company with E.A. Carleton of the SCS and John Lamb of Ithaca motored to Fredonia yesterday to inspect some projects which are being conducted cooperatively with the Soil Conservation Service. The crop involved is grapes....Professor Munn was in Albany on Monday for a meeting with Commissioner C.C. DuMond and A.B. Buchholz of the Dept. of Agr. & Markets. The gentlemen discussed the state's seed inspection plan.

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Jim Knapp: "What kind of oil do you use in your car, Tim?"

Tim Butts: "Oh, I usually start by telling them how lonely I am."